



Monday
August 9, 1953
Anchors.

Dearest Mother -

This has, indeed, been a "strange interlude". We finally got all our patients transferred to one hospital or another, got the place cleaned up a little - and then received about 100 ^{POI} ~~POI~~ men. They took my two wards to use for living spaces for them, leaving me without a job, temporarily at least. Then - we waited. And waited. And we're still waiting. The Army, greedy and confused.

has kept all but 18 of the returnees.
We have been inspected and checked
by all the top brass, including
the Secretary of the Army. They
leave the ship - smiling, full of
praise for our clean, spacious,
well equipped ship - with its
extraordinary staff. - Yes,
even our qualification jackets
were checked. So we're still
waiting. Our sailing date is
indefinite. POW's - are strewn
from one end of this section ^{Green}
to the other. - There are some
in Tokyo, some in Yokohama
- and no one knows just
what the best policy is now
- send them home by ship, or
rush them home by air. The
bays we do have are beginning



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To get restless and slightly
amused. As one said - "After 31
months at Camp 3 - I see that
there is one thing that hasn't
changed: the general state of con-
fusion that the Brass can't do
without." - True.

The boys we have are in
pretty good shape. - We are glad
to see that they are, actually,
very well adjusted. They are
all nice kids - have 3 officers
but the rest of the men are
in their early 20s - We treat
them like any other patient - Nor-
mally. We don't refer to their

past experiences any more than
we would to those of an injured
man coming in off the line.
Of course, we have to ask them,
like any patient - some routine
things - and we don't ignore
the fact that their last 3 months
or more, - or less - have been
most unusual and trying, - but
we don't emphasize it either.

Oh - they tell us every 2 or
so days that we can send mail
off the ship - "it will go off in
30 minutes" - big help.

I'm rested, at least, so
don't worry about that.

I had an invitation to
Lamela's birthday party. I had
sent \$, 0 for dinner, a party, or
something, so I'm glad they decided
to have something.



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Mother - just watch the papers
or listen to the radio. You
will probably hear before we
do! I do think it ^{can} will be
televised, so arrange to see it
if you can.

Johnnie and Betty sent me
some pictures. I had forgotten
what a really big man Johnnie
is! - They look very happy.

An old flame dropped by
yesterday - a guy I had dated
in San Diego - he's been out
once before on his little LST.
They brought Chinese + W. Koreans

Pow's up from Taeju to Incheon.

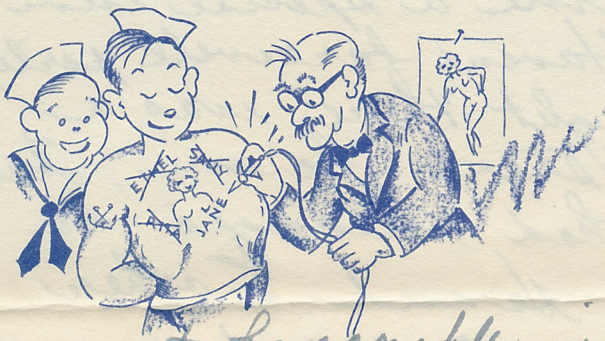
There is a Marine Capt. - a
Roy Whitlock - who is anxious
to meet you so he can ask
you for my hand! Honest
to goodness, Mother, when he
proposed to me the other night,
he said "Of course, I know
that I should talk to your
Mother before we make any
plans of any sort, so you
can wait until I've met her
to say yes or no." - !!!
I met him while we were on
R.R. - he spent an entire
evening watching me while
I danced, laughed, etc. with
his buddies. He's quiet, but
friendly, - and respected and
considered "The Boss" by his
friends. - They told me he was



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a true marine hero. - He and Charles have remarkable histories - and medals - and honors, etc. - Used to play football against each other! - Anyway - he was rather shy the next day - but noticeable nonetheless. - Then, they were called back early from R&R to take their positions on the line again (Ray is Company C.O. - Baker Co.) - His outfit really - got clabbered. One of his boys was a patient of mine and in his delirium kept calling for "Cap'n Whitlock". - He told me later what a fine man he

was, that all the boys would die
for him - because he was always
out there ready to die for them
- that he was always with them
even when he didn't have to be.
By then - I was completely
bewildered. I had had a letter
from him - brought down
from the line by one of the Copter
pilots - He apologized for not
having written sooner, but he
had been rather busy, but I
wanted you to know, Elma
Louise, that you are the kind
of girl I want to marry and
that when this thing is over,
I'm going to find you, and
take you to all the places a
man should take his girl,
and do all the little things,
and say all the right things
that go with offering your
love, your respect, and your



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most honorable intentions to the nicest girl I've ever met." - He went on to say that he had talked to one of the doctors and had learned my real name - and that this doctor had told him so many nice things about me that the other doctors had already discussed - and he said "and

Susie, - I felt so proud." - On with the story - - After the truce was signed, everybody was restricted. - Then, the Marines at Ascom City ^{Friday night} had a party. I had not planned to go - just didn't ^{feel} like it - but the Colonel

Called to give me a special invitation to the Haven farewell party. - said he thought there was a surprise in store for me. There was - Ray had managed to come down. He and 5 other Marines were selected to represent the 1st Marine Division at something (secret) in Hong Kong. He also happens to be a good friend of Colonel Barber's and had called him to see if he could get me up to Ascom City for Pure in case he could get down. - So there he was. - His very sweet, very sincere, very honest, - and I had five people tell me that I was the first girl they had ever known him to be even mildly interested in - one was Colonel Barber, the CO of Ascom City, another was a



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a warrant officer - (gunner) ~~at~~
both of whom have known, and
worked with, him for 10 years.
They spoke highly of him when he
wasn't around, - and kidded
him when he was. - He is the
kind of guy you like instantly
- that you do want to know better
- and that I might fall in love
with! - There's one thing certain,
I would be a very fortunate
girl if I did. - He said "Don't
let me rush you - and don't
try to be kind to me by sparing
my feelings. - I've waited a
long time for someone like
you and another year or so

won't kill me unless you do
just keep me dangling. - There
is a man who will love me
and yet, not take any nonsense
from me either! I like that!

And then - there is Charles. I
told Roy about him, how much
I liked him. - He said he would
just have to take his chances!

I'm going to have a tough
time from - and I'm anx-
ious to get home to a normal
country and a normal exis-
tence so I can look at my
future prospects with a nor-
mal mind and heart. - I
think I am emotionally and
mentally balanced still - at
least I don't feel any different,
but this place, this life can do
strange things to you subcon-



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scarsely, they tell me, and for
Roy, Charles, and my sakes.
I want to do what is right.

Roy seems more interested, and
more sure of himself than
Charles — but I haven't heard
from Charles in 2 weeks now
and probably won't for another
week or so — (He had his eye
operated and may have had some
difficulty with it — they antici-
pated it) — oh well — there is
time.

I'm going on duty in
5 minutes — need to fix my
hair, etc. — So write — Love
your daughter

And the Captain not only
so handsome - but so overy
beautifully!